

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Department of Family Administration Administrative Office of the Courts

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS - FY 2009

Issue Date: April 1, 2008
Applications Due: May 9, 2008

General Information

The Maryland Judiciary began an important initiative to improve its responsiveness to families and children when it created circuit court family divisions and family services programs in 1998. Since that time, the circuit courts have reoriented their case management practices and developed programs to assist the many families and children that come before the court seeking a resolution to their problems.

The Department of Family Administration at the Administrative Office of the Courts is requesting applications for Special Project Grants. Subject to the provision of funds for Fiscal Year 2009, grants will be awarded to applicable programs which enhance the experience of families and children involved with Maryland's legal system. Programs will provide legal assistance and other services designed to increase access to the family justice system. The Maryland Judiciary is committed to ensuring that services provided by the courts are accessible to all litigants regardless of their ability to pay for the services, and without regard to representational status.

Funding Priorities

Applications submitted should depict programs that have a demonstrated need within the community that is to be served and are services that will be complimentary to those provided by the court. *Priority will be given to the continuation of projects currently funded through the Department of Family Administration Special Project Grants.* New projects within the following categories will also be considered:

- Projects that promote access to the family and juvenile justice system;
- Programs providing innovative family services that address unmet needs of litigants and their families; and
- Other programs that enhance the court's ability to serve families and children.

Applicants must show a collaboration with the court in the jurisdiction where services are to be provided and must submit letters of support from the appropriate court in the jurisdiction to be served.

Eligible Grantees

Eligible grantees include court-related agencies, and non-profit service providers.

Funding Cycle

Grant awards will be made to fund projects during the period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The availability of funds for this program is contingent upon the provision of funds in the Maryland Judiciary budget by the Maryland General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2009. Because these awards are dependent upon the conclusion of the State budget process, **awards will not be announced until June 2008.**

Grant Payments

If awarded, and unless otherwise provided for in the grant agreement, grant funds will be paid on a ***reimbursement basis*** only, upon submission of timely financial expenditure reporting and a request for payment. PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE IN PROGRAM POLICY FOR THE FY2009 FUNDING CYCLE.

Technical Assistance

An informational session will be provided to anyone seeking additional information regarding the application process. The informational session has been scheduled for **Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at 10:00 am** and will be held at the Judiciary Education and Conference Center (JECC) located at 2009D Commerce Park Drive in Annapolis, Maryland. Directions for the JECC can be obtained by calling. *Attendance at the informational session is not mandatory* and is offered only as a supplement to the information included within this NOFA and the application. Please contact Christie Richards at 410-260-1580 to notify us if you plan to attend the session, or to request directions.

Applicable Guidelines

In applying for funds, grantees agree to comply with the *Family Division / Family Services Grants: Guidelines for Grant Recipients* for Fiscal Year 2009. Applicants should thoroughly review the *Guidelines* before applying. The *Guidelines* may be found at:

www.courts.state.md.us/family/grantadmin.html.

Application Instructions

The grant application can be found at: www.courts.state.md.us/family/grantadmin.html.

Applications are due on or before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2008 and should be directed to:

Pamela Cardullo Ortiz, Esq.
Executive Director
Department of Family Administration
Administrative Office of the Courts
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Submit **one original plus 9 copies**. **Faxed or e-mailed copies of the application will not be accepted.**

For further information regarding this notice of funding or the application process, please contact

Pamela Cardullo Ortiz, Executive Director, Family Administration at (410) 260-1580.